BACHELORS AND SPINSTERS

Text:

This is a message to the youth of the bachelors and spinsters, or those who are teaching. The most important aspect of many people's lives will be marriage. And this is because you actually enter into marriage, and by the time you get out, your children get into it. We look at marriage as something that covers probably the whole span of your lives altogether. And this is why it is a choice that you must be taking very seriously. Marriage is not something you enter into just like that. And we're not trying to scare you. We're just trying to save you. I will pass it.

Importance of marriage:

While many people get into marriage carelessly, there are certain things to know about it to enable you to make the right choices.

1. It determines your end.

Marriage has eternal value. When you consider the story of Ahab and Jezebel, look at how their lives ended. If Ahab had *not* married Jezebel, the story would have been different. So really, the person you marry is very important to you.

2. Marriage determines your children's future.

Well, that's why you need to know certain things and be sure of the will of God. Because you don't know if something's going to happen to that person and you become, God forbid, a widow on the way. What then happens to the children? But if you pray very well in marriage, God knows the future you're going to have with that

person. And then you will save yourself and your children an unpleasant future.

3. <u>Determines your finances</u>.

Your marriage is going to determine how you are going to do well financially in life. If you marry the wrong person and obviously, you can't know the right person until you pray and then you might run into difficulty. Moreover, you don't know the future of that person. The health challenges and other problems you might have along the way. So that's why you need to pray very well, to be sure of God's will, to let God speak to you, and not just to jump into unnecessary confusion and conclusion. Marriage has a lot of impact over your life.

4. <u>Determines your destiny</u>.

Where you end up in life, in hell or heaven, it is going to be determined by your marriage. Unless you recognize that, you can get out of something that is not okay for you. Your marriage will determine your life, the way your life will run, whether you're going to be happy or you're going to be sad. Marriage can be hell on earth for some people ( ), it can be heaven on earth.
It depends on the person you marry. Marriage needs to be guided, but you are the final arbiter. That's why you need to be matured to get married. If you don't do that, then you might run into some difficulties.

TYPES OF MARRIAGE.

Text:

Well, if you live in Nigeria, you don't know too much about marriage, because you're only exposed to some types of marriage here:

1. Traditional marriage,
2. Islamic marriage, and
3. Christian marriage.

But in other climes or countries, there are also different types of marriage. So let's identify some types of marriages that we have in our culture in Nigeria.

1. Cultural marriage

Cultural marriage is our traditional marriage. It is the kind of marriage that we were introduced to by our parents. Sometimes they call it traditional marriage. But while some parts of our traditions are very good, most of them are terribly dangerous. Dangerous in the sense that they encourage polygamy, just like you see in the Oni of Ife and some other traditional rulers. And most of the concepts in African traditional marriages are from the pit of hell. They are not from God. And so, in Bible life, we do not encourage such a thing. You know what they call *Igbeyawo*? Because in that part of the culture, you are stealing a woman. *Ogbe, Ojigbe* - they have to steal her. And women were often caught in the night and carried to their husband's house. You see, we can't go through those kinds of stupid things.

2. Country's marriage.

Many different countries have their different marriages. In the United States, it's completely different from what we find in Nigeria. You could just find a person on Monday, and then by Wednesday, you are married. They don't pay dowries. The person you go to marry doesn't even have to know your father or mother. This is not the kind of marriage that is based on the Word of God. The true marriage must be based on what the Bible says. And so, we're not taking European, Islamic, or American marriages. We're talking of Christian marriage.

3. <u>Church marriage.</u>

The church marriage is one that is based on the Word of God. This includes payment of dowry ( ), meeting the father and the mother of the bride and the bridegroom-to-be. And this is what we follow in Bible life. So, it's not a matter of convenience or culture. It's a church marriage. And we make sure you are well-Christianized, and you are guided, you are counseled, so that you don't roll into terrible difficulty on the way. Of course, the future of any marriage lies in the hands of God.

But if the foundation be destroyed, what will the righteous do? So, this is what you need to know. And we try to lay a very solid foundation for you.

4. <u>Convenient marriage</u>.

Convenient marriage is when you feel you are old enough, you are tired, you don't want to be in your father's house again. People are putting pressure on you because you are getting old, and they wonder when you're going to have children or something like that. Now, what is important is to know God's will. Because remember,

God is not late. God is never late. And He has a plan for you. Regardless of your age. Now, when I married Mommy G.O., she was 33 then. So, the age doesn't matter. There is so much technology now that will help you to live longer and save your egg for the future. So, don't be too comfortable with the marriage of convenience.

5. <u>Contract marriage</u>.

There's a contract marriage in which you just decide what to do. Marriage is for life, because when you are married, you are bound. But you can be involved in contract marriage. Contract marriage is what is more available in Europe. Particularly in America, it's very common. Because for them, it's not a covenant. It's a contract - just like you're doing a business. And when it's not okay, you actually change. You break it up. This is very common in New York, where I used to live for some years. I mean, it's called *burger marriage*. It's just like you order something at KFC, and then if it's not going to work, then you throw it out. But Christians cannot do that.

6. <u>Covenant marriage</u>.

The marriage between you and the person you're going to marry is a covenant—a lifetime covenant. It is not something you can get out of unless under some extravagant situation. This is why you have to pray and seek counsel and let yourself be guided, so that at the end of the day, whatever you see there, you're able to tolerate it. You're able to accept it and you're able to manage it. Sometimes marriage requires management. If you don't enjoy it, you have to endure it.

CHOOSING IN MARRIAGE.

Text:

The Word of God tells you whom to choose and whom you cannot choose. If you are going to have a Christian marriage, you must:

1. **Be a Levite that marries another Levite**.

That's the biblical one. Moses waited patiently until the daughter of a Levite was born. That's the first thing.

2. **You cannot marry an unbeliever**.

The Bible makes it clear whom you cannot marry. You can't marry the child of Belial. You can't marry the daughter of Jezebel. Because if you do so, now as we counsel you, you are undoing yourself. Because at the end of the day, you are going to be the one that will bear the brunt. Not your parents, not your pastor, but you. So, that's why you must wait upon the Lord and be guided and be counseled, so that you can do the right thing at the right time.